

REMARKS

Claims 2-9 and 11-33 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 2, 3, 5-9, 11-15 are amended, claims 1 and 10 are canceled and claims 16-33 are added. Support for new claims 16-33 can be found, for example, in the specification, at pages 5-11 and Figs. 6-12. No new matter is added.

The Office Action objects to claims 11-13 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. However, the Office Action notes the claims would be allowable if written in independent form, including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's suggestion for curing the objections to claims 11-13.

Claims 11-13 individually depend upon previously presented claim 9, which depends upon previously presented claim 1. Applicant amends claims 11-13 to be written in independent form by adding the limitations of previously presented claims 1 and 9 into each claim, respectively. Accordingly, Applicant submits that currently amended claims 11-13 are patentable over the references cited and respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection to claims 11-13.

The Office Action rejects claims 2, 5 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,655,081 to Burdess (hereinafter Burdess); rejects claims 3, 4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Burdess as applied to U.S. Patent No. 4,793,195 to Koning (hereinafter Koning); and rejects claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Burdess in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,151,964 to Nakajima (hereinafter Nakajima).

Applicant amends claims 2, 3 and 5-8 to depend on currently amended claim 11. Further, Applicant adds two sets of new dependent claims, each set identical to claims 2-8, as claims 20-26 and 27-33 that depend on currently amended claims 12 and 13, respectively. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-8, 20-26 and 27-33 are patentable at

least in view of the patentability of claims 11, 12 and 13, from which they respectively depend, as well as the additional features they recite and requests withdrawal of the rejection to claims 2-8.

The Office Action rejects claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,655,081 to Burdess and rejects claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burdess in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,151,964 to Nakajima.

Applicant considers these rejections moot in view of the cancellation of claims 1 and 10. However, this Amendment adds independent claim 16, which incorporates the language in claim 1 in addition to the element of "wherein at least a bottom part of the side wall of the hollow shell has a symmetrical truncated conical shape, with a thickness varying from a first value at the free end to a second value, greater than the first value, at the base of the hollow shell." Support for this new element is found on pages 7 and 8 of the specification and in Figure 12. None of the references cited in the Office Action disclose or suggest, either alone or in combination, "at least a bottom part of the side wall of the hollow shell" having "a symmetrical truncated conical shape." Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits the additional language in claim 16 added to the incorporated language of claim 1 distinguishes it over the references cited.

The Office Action rejects claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 4,655,081 to Burdess in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,151,964 to Nakajima; rejects claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,655,081 to Burdess; and rejects claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,655,081 to Burdess in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,544,646 to Barnaby (hereinafter Barnaby).

Applicant amends claims 9, 14 and 15 to depend on new independent claim 16. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 9, 14 and 15 are patentable at least in view of the patentability of claim 16, from which they depend, as well as the additional features they recite and requests withdrawal of the rejection to claims 9, 14 and 15.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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WPB:KRG/jnm

Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time
Amendment Transmittal

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